

**CLAIMS**

1. Apparatus, for use with a computing device, for selecting a presence status from a  
5 number of available presence statuses comprising:  
a data store for storing at least one predeterminable rule;  
an activity monitor for monitoring an activity through the device; and  
logic for determining the presence status based in part on the at least one rule and in  
part on the monitored activity.
- 10 2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the activity monitored by the activity  
monitor is defined by the at least one rule.
3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the activity monitor monitors activity  
15 of the device.
4. Apparatus according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the activity monitor monitors  
activity external to the device.
- 20 5. Apparatus according to any previous claim, further comprising a presence  
publisher for publishing the determined presence status to a presence server.
6. Apparatus according to any previous claim, wherein the logic is adapted for  
determining a plurality of presence statuses.
- 25 7. Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the presence publisher is adapted to  
publish each determined presence status to one of a plurality of presence servers.
8. Apparatus according to any previous claim, wherein the device is any one of a  
30 personal computer (PC), personal digital assistant (PDA), or a telephony-based  
communications device.
9. Apparatus according to any previous claim, wherein the determined presence  
information is published to an instant messaging presence server.

10. Apparatus according to any previous claim, wherein the determined presence information is published to a session initiation protocol (SIP) presence server.
- 5 11. A method, for use with a computing device, for selecting a presence status, from a number of available presence statuses comprising:  
monitoring an activity through the device; and  
determining a presence status based in part on the monitored activity and in part on at least one predeterminable rule.
- 10 12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the step of monitoring comprises monitoring an activity as defined by the at least one rule.
13. A method according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the step of monitoring comprises  
15 monitoring an activity on the device.
14. A method according to claim 11, 12 or 13, wherein the step of monitoring comprises monitoring an activity external to the device.
- 20 15. A method according to any of claims 11 to 14, further comprising publishing the determined presence status to a presence server.
16. A method according to any of claims 11 to 15, wherein the step of determining comprises determining a plurality of presence statuses.
- 25 17. A method according to claim 16, wherein the step of publishing further comprises publishing each determined presence status to one of a plurality of presence servers.
18. A method according to any of claims 11 to 17, for use with any one of a personal  
30 computer (PC), personal digital assistant (PDA), or a telephony-based communications device.
19. A method according to any of claims 11 to 18, wherein the step of publishing comprises publishing the presence status to an instant messaging presence server.

20. A method according to any of claims 11 to 19, wherein the determined presence information is published to a session initiation protocol (SIP) presence server.

- 5 21. A presence broking system for managing presence information received from two or more devices associated with a single user comprising:  
a storage device for storing at least one predeterminable rule; and  
means for publishing a presence status to a presence server based on the received presence information and the at least one predeterminable rules.

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